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THE CHAIRMAN

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

JAN 14 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hollings:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases and the assertion by some cable operators that these increases are a result of the Cable Act.

I believe the Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates and that citation of the Act itself as an excuse for increases, even prior to the effective date of most of its provisions, is entirely inconsistent with Congressional objectives.

The Commission is in the process of considering rules implementing the rate provisions of the law and is seeking public comment on those provisions that address rate rollbacks, refunds, and evasions of statutory requirements. A copy of the Commission's recently adopted Notice of Proposed Rule Making is enclosed. I am confident that the Commission will attempt to implement these provisions faithfully and that it will consider the conduct of the cable industry during the interim period in deciding what kind of rate regulation is needed.

Your letter will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of your concerns during its deliberations.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Enclosure

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON

JAN 14 1993

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on
Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases and the assertion by some cable operators that these increases are a result of the Cable Act.

I believe the Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates and that citation of the Act itself as an excuse for increases, even prior to the effective date of most of its provisions, is entirely inconsistent with Congressional objectives.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred C. Sikes".

Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Enclosure



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON

JAN 14 1993

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Telecommunications and Finance
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
316 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases and the assertion by some cable operators that these increases are a result of the Cable Act.

I believe the Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates and that citation of the Act itself as an excuse for increases, even prior to the effective date of most of its provisions, is entirely inconsistent with Congressional objectives.

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Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Enclosure



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

JAN 14 1993

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Honorable Slade Gorton
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gorton:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases and the assertion by some cable operators that these increases are a result of the Cable Act.

I believe the Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates and that citation of the Act itself as an excuse for increases, even prior to the effective date of most of its provisions, is entirely inconsistent with Congressional objectives.

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Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON

JAN 14 1993

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
227 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases and the assertion by some cable operators that these increases are a result of the Cable Act.

I believe the Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates and that citation of the Act itself as an excuse for increases, even prior to the effective date of most of its provisions, is entirely inconsistent with Congressional objectives.

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Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Enclosure



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

JAN 14 1993

Honorable John C. Danforth
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
554 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Danforth:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent cable television system rate increases and the assertion by some cable operators that these increases are a result of the Cable Act.

I believe the Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates and that citation of the Act itself as an excuse for increases, even prior to the effective date of most of its provisions, is entirely inconsistent with Congressional objectives.

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Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Enclosure

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

December 9, 1992

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Al:



The Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, which became law on October 5, 1992, has as its primary goal the protection of consumers against unreasonable cable rates. In what appears to be an attempt to evade the law, many cable companies are raising rates before the FCC's rate regulations are in place. Some cable operators have even asserted that their rate increases are a result of the Cable Act.

Those assertions are false. Nothing in the Act requires rate increases. To the contrary, the Act gives the FCC and local governments new authority to regulate rates.

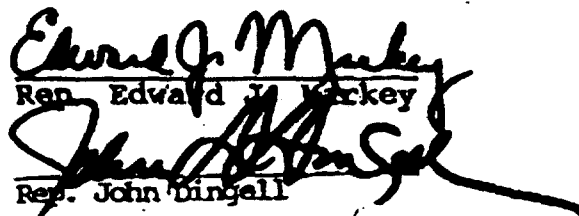

The FCC also has authority under the Cable Act to order rate rollbacks and to take action to prevent cable operators from evading the rate regulation provisions of the law. We are writing to you to underscore that the FCC's enforcement of the law must protect consumers against unreasonable rates. We urge you to pay particular attention to those cable operators who rush through rate increases in anticipation of rate regulation.

Sincerely,

X 
Sen. Ernest F. Hollings


Sen. Daniel K. Inoué

Sen. Slade Gorton


Sen. John C. Danforth


Rep. Edward J. Markey

Rep. John Dingell

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